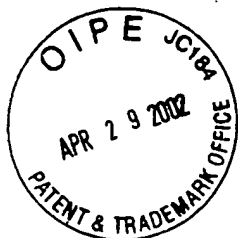


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B. Webb
PATENT 5/14/02



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Assistant Commissioner for Patents, Washington, D.C. 20231 on April 18, 2002

Kevin G. Rooney
Kevin G. Rooney, Reg. No. 36,330

4/18/02
Date

Applicants: Mark Ortiz et al.
Serial No: 09/677,981
Filing Date: October 3, 2000
Art Unit: 3762
Examiner: Scott M. Getzow
Title: IMPLANTABLE HEART ASSIST DEVICES AND METHODS
Atty Docket: SPEN-08

Cincinnati, Ohio 45202

April 18, 2002

SUPPLEMENTAL INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT

Assistant Commissioner for Patents
Washington, D.C. 20231

Sir:

In accordance with the duty of candor and good faith imposed by 37 C.F.R. §1.56, and means of complying therewith according to 37 C.F.R. §§1.97 and 1.98, the references listed on the attached Form PTO-1449 are called to the attention of the United States Patent and Trademark Office in connection with the above-identified patent application. Copies of the cited references are enclosed

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herewith and Applicants request that the Examiner consider the cited references and make an independent evaluation of their materiality.

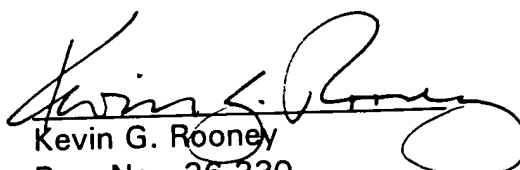
Certification under 37 C.F.R. § 1.97(e)

Each item of information contained in the information disclosure statement was first cited in a communication from a foreign patent office in a counterpart foreign application not more than three months prior to the filing of the information-disclosure statement. A copy of the communication from the European Patent Office, dated April 9, 2002, is also attached.

Applicants do not believe that any fees are due in connection with this submission. However, if such petition is due or any other fees are necessary, the Commissioner may consider this to be a request for such and charge any necessary fees to deposit account 23-3000.

Respectfully submitted,

WOOD, HERRON & EVANS, L.L.P.


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